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January 23, 2012

BY E-FILING

Ms. Cynthia A. Brown
Chief of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
JAN 23 2012
Part of
Public Record

**RE: FD 35559, Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC
-Operation Exemption-Tahawus Line**

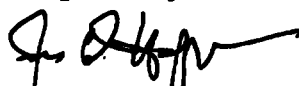
Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing on behalf of Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC ("Saratoga") to bring to the Board's attention a series of resolutions, letters, and opinions from local government and local citizens supporting Saratoga's efforts to provide common carrier railroad service on the subject line of railroad. Attached to this transmittal letter are:

1. A resolution by the Warren County Board of Supervisors expressing strong support for Saratoga's STB filing in FD 35559;
2. A support letter from a JoAnne Smith;
3. Letters from Sandra Davis, Webster Miga, and David Waters to local media supporting Saratoga's efforts to provide rail service.

The simple fact is that there is wide-scale support for Saratoga's service from local government, citizens, and businesses. The only thing "controversial" is the opposition voiced by Protect the Adirondacks!

Respectfully submitted,


John D. Heffner

3803314.1/SP/24988/0101/012312

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Attachments

cc: all parties

3803314.1/SP/24889/0101/012312

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**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

FD 35559

**SARATOGA AND NORTH CREEK RAILWAY, LLC
—OPERATION EXEMPTION—
TAHAWUS LINE**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I mailed a copy of the "Support transmittal letter" of Saratoga And North Creek Railway, LLC, dated January 23, 2012, in the above-captioned proceeding by first class United States Mail and/or electronic transmission to all parties on the Board's service list on January 23, 2012:


John D. Heffner
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(202) 742-8607

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 45 OF 2012

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Monroe, Bentley, Thomas, Girard, Sokol, Wood and Frasier

**SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF SARATOGA AND NORTH CREEK
RAILWAY, LLC BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
BOARD TO PROVIDE RAIL SERVICE ON THE EXISTING
APPROXIMATELY 29.71 MILES OF RAIL TRACK KNOWN
AS THE "TAHAWUS LINE" RUNNING FROM NORTH CREEK,
NEW YORK WITH TERMINUS AT NEWCOMB, NEW YORK**

**WHEREAS, Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC has made application to the Surface
Transportation Board for permission to re-activate the Tahawus line, and**

**WHEREAS, once approved for use, Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC intends to utilize the
Tahawus line to haul freight and support economic development, and**

**WHEREAS, existing rail lines have become an increasingly important alternative for shipping and
receiving for small to medium size Adirondack businesses as the price of gasoline and diesel fuel increases,
and**

**WHEREAS, the North Country Regional Economic Council Plan identified rail importance as a
major component of the regions economic health and calls for the retention of all existing rail lines, and**

**WHEREAS, the rehabilitation and use of the Tahawus rail line as proposed by Saratoga and North
Creek Railway, LLC holds the potential for additional future passenger and tourism services, while
accommodating freight shipments to existing businesses, and**

**WHEREAS, the application of Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC to re-activate the Tahawus
line has been met with vehement opposition by Protect the Adirondacks!, Inc. as well as resistance by the
NYS DEC, Division of Lands and Forest, now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby expresses strong support for the
application of Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC to the Surface Transportation Board for permission**

RESOLUTION No. 45 OF 2012

PAGE 2 OF 2

to operate the Tahawus line, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall cause certified copies of this Resolution to be presented to the Surface Transportation Board, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forest, the Essex County Board of Supervisors, the Hon. Elizabeth O'C. Little, the Hon. Teresa Sayward, the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages and such other officials and entities as deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

January 18, 2012

TO: Miss Cynthia Brown
FROM: JoAnnesmithNY@gmail.com

Dear Miss Cynthia Brown,

I am supporting the Saratoga & North Creek Railway and its parent company in their request as described in Docket No. FD3559 allowing the railroad to offer freight service to multiple customers while also carrying tourists between North River and the former Tahawus Mines in Newcomb, NY.

My parents established a bakery and restaurant in 1924 in the village of North Creek. The restaurant has been in continuous operation by family members to this date.

The hamlet of North Creek (near North River) was established in 1871 by the railroad magnate Thomas Durant. The Durants planned and created the North Creek Railroad Depot village whole cloth, complete with the necessary railroad infrastructure which is still operational today.

We are trying to create a viable local economy based on the historical location on the banks of the Hudson River and on a history of tourism and railroad commerce.

Over the last twenty years, business people have invested millions of dollars and are continuing to invest more money in enterprises in our hamlet village and surrounding wilderness areas.

We have up to date hotels, lodges, restaurants, wholesale and retail businesses, stores and ski areas, etc. We are awaiting the fruition of the Saratoga & North Creek Railway project. Please understand that the Saratoga & North Creek Railway is holding our vision of a future based on a proven historical past.

We need success of the SNCRR in order to move forward into a long awaited economic renaissance.

Please make me a *party of record* regarding these deliberations.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Smith

Letters

Posted: Wednesday, January 11, 2012 7:59 pm

We should reopen Tahawus rail line

Editor:

Why do the environmental groups have so much say and we have so little? The people who would benefit by the Tahawus rail line are considered to be of far less value than the birds, squirrels and trees.

In this tough economy, shouldn't we strive to help the residents of this area? For a long time, anything that would benefit the average citizen of the United States, the environmental organizations manage to stop.

What I am trying to say is the U.S. Surface Transportation Board should approve the application filed by Iowa Pacific Holdings LLC to begin freight service on the 29.7 mile stretch of tracks between North River and Newcomb.

Let's get our economy working again.

SANDRA DAVIS

Cambridge

Don't cut programs; Strengthen them

Editor:

Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and food stamps are not problems within our great society, they are the pillars.

These social programs need to be strengthened to last to infinity and beyond. The public school system is probably the most important singular vital pillar to the future of our great society. All public schools, urban, suburban and rural need to be turned into tiger schools, with tiger curriculums that will bear tigers, not kittens, to venture forth into the global economy and the local economy.

So how do we pay for all of this? The money is there. It always has been. Money is everywhere. It literally grows on trees in money orchards. The ever-bearing money crop has been mismanaged, misappropriated, squandered and stolen by the greedy before it even ripens, and the rest of us and our progeny literally pay the mounting bills into perpetuity. Eliminate the greed, divert the flow of money away from the greedy; Enron, Solyndra, Madoff, Lehman, MF Global, AIG, Fannie and Freddie, the secondary mortgage market, derivatives, insider trading among elitists, bridges to nowhere, the list of ghosts is endless.

WILLIAM RUDENKO

Diamond Point

Ellington

Breaking News

Freezing Rain Advisory

Votes 0

Votes

Iowa-Pacific providing economic help

As of Wednesday, January 18, 2012

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#To the News Enterprise:

#I am writing to endorse the outstanding proposition which exists to provide an economic engine for the Adirondack Region.

#The idea would provide:

#•Private investment to sustain our vital communities.

#•Reduced traffic on our mountain roadways — which will lead to:

#•Increased safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

#•Less impact on the environment.

#•Most important — JOBS!

#This is the criteria which we dream of and have dreamed of for decades.

#The opportunity which Iowa-Pacific has presented would revitalize the North Creek to Tahawus rail line and fulfill all constituencies' desires.

#Governor Cuomo has challenged us to "Think Big."

#It's great to see that all interests can be satisfied and we are enabled to work together.

#Thank you Iowa-Pacific!

#Your efforts are supported with the genuine interest to provide vitality, recreational possibilities and environmental productivity to our region.

#Wester Miga

The citizens of the village of Corinth have a unique opportunity to fundamentally change the way local government operates when we vote Tuesday whether to dissolve the village. Having two levels of government (town and village) for about 6,000 people is an extravagance we can no longer afford

A committee studied and recommended against dissolution, but this committee was heavily weighted with people with a vested interest in the status quo, and this study only examined spending one year out I believe that over time more savings will be found for both village and town residents. I urge people to vote for dissolution Tuesday

JOEL DUGUAY

Corinth

Local railroads need support from region

Editor:

I would like to take exception to the recent surge of the anti-railroad campaign aimed at the Saratoga and North Creek Railway and the Adirondack Scenic Railway to prevent these roads from the further use of existing track or right of way on the basis of such activities causing "irreversible damage" to the park. The argument is absurd.

The idea of not shipping the mine tailings from Tahawus on the grounds of a negative environmental impact via rail is incorrect in itself. These tailings have been laying there for years, because at the time they were considered to be more of a waste than anything else. Rain has leached heavy metals into the groundwater. Shouldn't we be more concerned about removing this source of contamination as fast as possible?

Another fallacy people always quote is "the trains disturb the wildlife." On the contrary, the fact is that once animals along the right of way get used to the routine of the comings and goings of the trains, they usually ignore it.

The next time you drive your vehicle to take a trip, count the roadkill, then ask an engineer to take a count on his or her next trip.

One of the reasons the Adirondack State Park was established in the first place was to ensure future generations would have a chance to view its wonders and beauty. The best way of doing that is by a relaxing ride aboard a train.

DAVID. E. WATERS

Saratoga Springs

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Posted in Mailbag on *Monday, January 16, 2012 10:59 am*

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